

PROSPECTUS
 OF A
 NEW MONTHLY PUBLICATION,
 ENTITLED, THE
 LONDON MEDICAL REVIEW
 AND
 MAGAZINE.

BY A SOCIETY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

"Varie cujusque statis doctorum laboribus coactata sapientia est, hoc
 "minumque multorum mens in unum quasi collecta."
Baglivii Præcepta Medica, lib. i. cap. i. § viii.

THE advantage resulting from periodical publications in every department of learning, has been universally felt and acknowledged: but, if there be any one branch of science to which these vehicles of information are peculiarly adapted, it is undoubtedly to Medicine. The number and variety of those observations and discoveries which tend to explain the different operations of the animal economy, and to throw light on the history or cure of diseases, more especially call for a general repository in which they may be early recorded; from whence practitioners may have an opportunity of obtaining, at stated periods, a view of the progress of medical knowledge, and of the undertakings which are carried on for its improvement.

This desideratum seems particularly requisite at the present time, when the minds of ingenious men, in all parts of the globe, are turned to scientific inquiries, and successive discoveries are continually rewarding their laudable exertions. It has, therefore, been matter of just surprise that we have hitherto possessed no MONTHLY JOURNAL in which the state of medical science has been regularly detailed, with an account of the progressive stages of physic and surgery, and the assistance they derive from the advances made in natural history and philosophy.

It will not be assuming too much to affirm, that a journal of the above description may be conducted in LONDON with

peculiar advantages. *Here* medicine has unquestionably attained as high a degree of perfection as it has ever yet reached; and not only the most important discoveries, but the best application of those discoveries to practice, have been made. For, not to insist on the acknowledged pre-eminence this metropolis possesses over every other, in respect to foreign correspondence and internal communication, the number of hospitals and other similar establishments, with which it abounds, afford the practitioners who superintend them the most frequent opportunities of making useful observations themselves, and of verifying or refuting the suggestions of others.

Several physicians and surgeons who had experienced the necessity of such a work, and who were convinced that much benefit would accrue from it to the profession, as well as to the public at large, having communicated their sentiments to each other, agreed to associate together for the purpose of collecting, arranging, and printing such materials as could be procured. They now take this method of submitting to their brethren in general, an outline of the plan which appeared to them the most eligible; and of requesting their concurrence, to enable them to carry it into execution. Promises of assistance have been already received from various respectable quarters; and as some members of the Society are themselves entrusted with the superintendence of hospitals, &c. and several of them have extensive literary connexions abroad, they enter upon their undertaking with the fullest confidence that they shall not disappoint the expectations of their readers.

The plan which has been adopted, will comprehend two primary objects: *First*, To exhibit a faithful monthly account of the most interesting new publications, both foreign and domestic, in physic, surgery, and medical philosophy: *Secondly*, To collect all the important unedited facts, relating to any branch of the profession, which can be obtained from contemporary practitioners, in different parts of the world.

In conducting the former part of their work, they design chiefly to follow the analytical method, that each author may



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be allowed to speak for himself: but as they do not engage to give a complete review of every performance that may issue from the press (which would be an endless and unprofitable task), their attention will be principally directed to books that are either more expensive than common, more difficult to be procured, or deserving especial notice on account of the novelty or importance of their contents. Of the rest it will be sufficient to give a general character, with impartiality and conciseness. But, in order to render this department of their journal as perfect as possible, they will thankfully avail themselves of the assistance of learned and scientific persons, who may possess foreign publications, of which the state of the political world, or other circumstances, render the conveyance uncertain: articles of this nature, addressed to the Secretary of the Society, may be transmitted either in the Latin, French, Italian, Spanish, or German language.

Original cases and memoirs have formed the most valuable part of those periodical works, which have hitherto acquired the greatest reputation: and the decided utility of these communications is too obvious to need any comment. The more universally medical men concur in giving to each other a free and faithful account of their own experience, the more will useful inquiries be suggested, and the art of observation improved. It is therefore hoped, that the profession at large will further the views of the Society, in promoting this desirable object: and they beg to assure their correspondents, that the most punctual attention shall be paid to the early insertion of all authentic intelligence connected with practice.

In addition to the articles above enumerated, others will be included; which, if not of equal moment, are nevertheless too interesting to be omitted in a work of this kind. Among these may be mentioned, occasional histories of epidemic or epidemic diseases, and their treatment;—an accurate report of chemical and pharmaceutical experiments;—the trials and effects of new remedies;—useful discoveries relating to medicine, in the animal, vegetable, or mineral kingdom;—inventions and improvements of surgical operations, or the instruments by which they are performed;—inquiries or

gestions; tending to elucidate any branch of medical philosophy or practice;—notices of works preparing for the press;—proposals for lectures, prize questions, or the establishment of public institutions;—vacancies and elections in the professional departments of universities, hospitals, dispensaries, &c.;—promotions of physicians and surgeons in the army or navy;—hints on medical economy and jurisprudence;—biographical memoirs of deceased men of eminence in the profession;—a register of the changes in the barometer and thermometer;—with a table of the current prices of drugs;—and other miscellaneous news.

It must be evident that a design of this nature and extent can only be conducted with propriety and effect by a society of medical men; who are neither dependent on the hire, nor subject to the controul, of persons not in the profession.

—Quod MEDICORUM est
Promittunt MEDICI.

This consideration, it is presumed, will induce the medical world to countenance the present undertaking, and enrich it with whatever may contribute to its general acceptance or utility. In the mean time, the Society pledge themselves to spare no exertion or expense, to render it worthy of universal patronage and support.

The first number of the LONDON MEDICAL REVIEW AND MAGAZINE, comprising one hundred pages, octavo size, of the same type as this Prospectus, will be published on the last day of March, price one shilling and sixpence: and, at the conclusion of every six months, will be given a copious index of the principal subjects which occur in the six preceding numbers.

N. B. Communications for this work, directed to Mr. KOENIG (Secretary of the Society), may be sent to Mr. SYMONDS, N^o 20, Paternoster Row, or to Mr. CLARKE, N^o 38, New Bond Street, Booksellers.

LONDON, *March 1799.*





